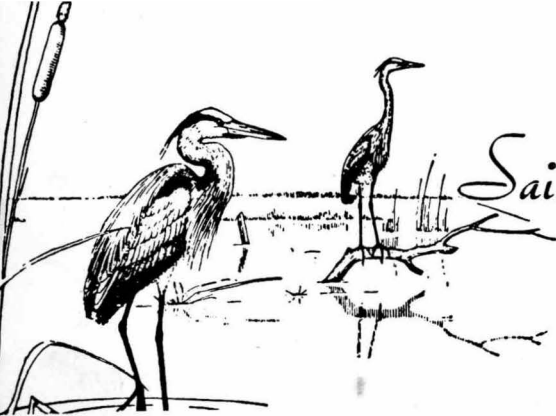




Saint Louis Audubon

Bulletin

March, 1963

Vol. 31, No. 3

BRISTOL FOSTER

TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 1963

Third Baptist Church, Grand and Washington — 8:15 P. M.

ROVING THREE CONTINENTS

Like a great many other scientists, Bristol Foster displayed, at a very early age, a natural tendency for his chosen profession. Since his boyhood in Toronto, Canada, where he was born in 1932, Mr. Foster has been fascinated by the great out-of-doors. Two years on a farm helped develop this interest. As soon as he was old enough to wander farther afield he went prospecting in the Rocky Mountains, then returned east to the Province of Quebec to collect mammals for the Royal Ontario Museum. Mr. Foster is a graduate of the University of Toronto, where he received his Master's Degree in Biology in 1955. In 1957 he set out in his Landrover to see the world and study first-hand some of the wildlife he knew only from text-books. The fruit of his 55,000 mile trip, so dramatically revealed in his film *Roving Three Continents* is one of his outstanding achievements to date.

How many people have dreamed of climbing aboard some magic vehicle that would carry them anywhere in the world — even where no roads exist? Bristol Foster had such a dream — and made it come true. In a Landrover (a rugged, 4-wheel drive vehicle) he roamed the continents of Africa, Asia, and Australia. His trip totalled more than 55,000 miles and took eighteen months. He penetrated parts of the world untouched by tourists; saw and collected many strange forms of animal life that were rare even to scientists. From England Bristol Foster and his companions followed a route through Ghana, the Cameroons, the Belgina Congo, and East Africa. Then they went on to India, through Nepal, Burma, Sikkim and Thailand into the rain-forests of Malaya and over to a small island in the South China Sea. They covered Australia from the northwest corner to Sydney.

One of the highlights of the trip was climbing the Ruwenzori Mountains, also known by the more colorful name of "Mountains of the Moon." Located on the Equator between the Congo and Uganda, their glaciated peaks soar to almost 17,000 feet. Their romantic name comes from the unusual vegetation to be found on their slopes. Early explorers imagined that equally strange vegetation would be found on the moon. Our Screen Tour audience will enjoy an experience not easily forgotten when they go *Roving Three Continents*.



Nineteen Sixty Three Winter Birds in the St. Louis Area

By J. EARL COMFORT

Winter birders in our area experienced many difficulties, often being confronted with record-breaking low temperatures. The only consolation was our exceptionally dry January and February, which resulted in little snow fall, the bird lister's bane. Not only was the Mississippi River ice-locked above the Alton Dam, but there was a long period during which the usually open water below the dam was also solidly frozen except for a small stretch just below the Alton Bridge where we enjoyed a huge concentration of ducks and gulls. The Missouri River, also frozen solid in our vicinity, set a modern record in that respect. There were week-ends when the Mississippi River above the dam failed to produce birds because it lacked the usual open water pot holes for the first time in our memory. It was inconceivable there would be no bird activity for miles up the river, but such was the case as many birders will attest. In normal winters this is our most fertile birding region.

As is the usual case in extreme winters we found the Herring Gulls far outnumbering the generally numerous Ring-billed species. Glaucous Gulls made the news in a big way, the first sighted by Steve Hanselmann on January 12, another sighted by Wally George on March 7, with a second record later in the day spotted by Mary Wiese. But we were in for a big surprise when we counted 4 in a group of other gulls on the 9th. This set a record for this big gull which has only appeared as a singleton in the past on its few occurrences. All 1963 Glaucous Gulls were second year all-white birds, though one retained a trace of its first year brown plumage.

We had 4 records of Oldsquaw Ducks, 3 probably the same bird. But the fourth showed a different plumage. Canvasbacks and Goldeneyes were unusually common, with Hooded Mergansers becoming rather common the first week in March when we finally and gratefully saw the demise of the deep freeze, permitting ducks to spread out. On a lake in Grand Marais State Park, East St. Louis, Dick Anderson saw 15 Hooded Mergansers in single file, 11 males in the lead on March 6th. Scaups had moved in by the thousands in huge rafts by the 9th.

Dick Anderson and Bertha Massie gave us an outstanding listing near Wood River, Illinois, on January 20, an extremely rare Ferruginous Hawk, the second record in our area. Dick also figured in the original listing.

On March 2 Kurt Wesseling, Jr. approached within 5 feet of a Saw-whet Owl in St. Louis County near Baldwin. This elf seldom makes our area list.

Dick was in on another good find on February 27 with his Downtown Peregrine Falcon which was feasting on one of St. Louis' plentiful pigeons.

Dick and Mitzi Anderson and Steve Hanselmann have produced Harlan's Hawks for the year, Steve's in January, the Anderson's in March.

While visiting in Keokuk, Iowa in February, Connie and Earl Hath had an opportunity to compare their Bald Eagle population with ours, the Iowa Balds far outstripping ours in numbers. On one trip along the river Earl

counted 85 eagles, while we seldom reach the 30s on any given day.

Four long-eared Owls were seen at the August A. Busch Wildlife Area by Wally George and Kay Stewart, other listers cashing in on the find during February. Our 11 Short-eared Owls in one small field in St. Charles County contributed exciting birding.

Surprising, considering the extremely cold weather, was the number of robins appearing in city yards as early as the first week in January.

The Shaw's Garden Arboretum has been used extensively by St. Louis Audubon members and guests for Nature hikes as has the Busch Area by the Webster Groves Nature Study Society and friends, with regular Saturday and Sunday trips scheduled at both places.

"THE OUTDOOR NATURE WORKSHOP — AN EDUCATIONAL TOOL OF LOCAL AUDUBON SOCIETIES

By EUGENE J. WILHELM, JR., Ph.D.
St. Louis Audubon Society

Regardless of time, space, or culture man has continuously operated to alter the natural landscape. Humanity has disturbed and displaced more and more of nature, has become the ecologic dominant in more and more areas, and has affected the course of organic evolution. These devastating human activities have increased with modern urbanization, advanced technology, and minute specialization. Man has lost, and must regain to survive, his realistic union in nature.

We read and hear so much today of how man has conquered nature. He has gained control of the atom, the heart of all matter; broken through the atmospheric shell into the vastness of space. Man has created lakes from streams, changed deserts into oases, forced clouds to precipitate, managed native plants and animals alike. Still, with all these esteemed accomplishments, man has yet to discover himself.

At present, living beyond one's means has become the civic norm, increasing material goods the goal of society. This acceleration toward utopia may be halted soon by economic limits of the raw physical elements. What we need today, and in the future, is an ethic and an aesthetic under which man, practicing the attribute of humility, may exist in harmony with nature.

The question then rises: "How do we accomplish this goal?" Man is not merely an intelligent being (so are dogs), but an active biological entity. Humans always have had to satisfy basic physical and psychological needs. Food, water, clothing, shelter, and space are primary necessities of life worth mentioning. Man requires contact with nature; he must be left to explore, learn, and experience the natural landscape on his own. The outdoor nature workshop permits this quest.

The primary purpose of an outdoor nature workshop should be interest in the total environment, or simply, an awakening to the intimate man-land relationships. To operate a soul-searching workshop the program must be outdoors, preferably throughout the year and in all types of weather. Under these circumstances students can understand the meaning of natural occurrences, like falling drops of rain through the vegetative layers of a forest, or the existence of life beneath a deep blanket of snow. Let students experience nature in her various moods and colors.

Anyone mildly interested or curious about natural history, conservation, or the outdoors should be encouraged to participate in workshops, but a dual emphasis must be placed upon the youth between the ages of eight and fourteen, and teachers at all levels of education. By aiming at these two units of our culture first we will be erecting a solid program for the future. It has been stated often that youth between the ages of eight and fourteen are more curious and receptive to stimuli. The fact to be borne out by the several great naturalists of the United States who began their careers around the age of ten. Teachers should be more receptive than the average adult because they already appreciate and are aware of what knowledge can do. To succeed, this plan must enter all phases of education from kindergarten through college.

I personally believe education within the nature workshop program is insufficient if we are to implant an ethic and an aesthetic into our workshop students. The word education stems from the Latin verb *educare* — to bring up, to instruct, or to seek knowledge. The outdoor nature workshop cannot just teach nature, inject meaningless facts and figures, recite identifications of soils, plants, and animals. The nature workshop is seeking provocation, interpretation, the soul of things. Perhaps the word interpretation is much better than the word education. The purpose of interpretation is to stimulate the individual toward a desire to widen his horizon of interests and knowledge, and to gain an understanding of greater truths that lie behind any facts or figures. Interpretation aims to present a whole rather than a part, and must address itself to the whole man rather than any phase. Valuable first hand experience with the objects of nature's and man's handiworks can be had.

In interpretation the student must be stimulated by already appreciative instructors. The student must want to discover natural things for himself, then observe these natural elements with the help of interpreters, and finally arrive at a realistic understanding of things. A result will follow from this procedure of stimulation and understanding, namely, appreciation of the whole of nature, including man. When students understand the intricate relationships of nature, willful alteration, destruction, and extermination of nature will decrease.

But outdoor nature workshops have a special obligation to youth. In them rests the future of mankind. Interpretation addressed to children should not be a dilution of the presentation to adults, but should follow a fundamentally different approach. To be at its best the workshop will require a separate program.

One of the advantages of outdoor workshops is the vast unlimited living museum. Movies, television, maps, blackboards, and other tools can be minimized or forgotten. For this living museum is full of mysteries and puzzles that puts pirate adventures to shame. Young imaginations run wild and are satisfied by the full use of their natural sensations of smell, taste, touch, and sound. As a branch of activities, interpretation for children requires a special talent. One of the factors of the general talent is the ability to become a companion with youth and thus conceal any show of direct instruction. If we cannot interest these carefree, inquisitive minds with our natural treasures, how can we hope to stimulate adults beset by personal and cultural responsibilities of a precarious world?

Last year the St. Louis Audubon Society instituted its first outdoor nature workshop. The Society is fortunate to possess the basic ingredients so readily available, namely, a tract of natural land about 35 air miles west of

St. Louis, a small but adequate nature center, and a professional staff. The piece of land is Shaw's Garden Arboretum, which is an extension of the Missouri Botanical Garden of St. Louis. The 1,674 acres comprising the Arboretum offer a variety of native plants and animals in their little disturbed surroundings to the entire St. Louis Metropolitan populace.

The primary objective of an Arboretum is the growing of woody plants for display and study. It is the only place where the behavior and the growth of a tree or plant might be studied for longer than a human lifetime. Thus the plantations become important to the forester and to the conservationist. The interdependence of trees, shrubs, and grasslands and the animals which live there become a laboratory for the game manager as well.

Shaw's Garden Arboretum is unique, however, for several portions of the property have been little disturbed by man during the past three centuries. Twelve trees representing four or five species are estimated to be over 300 years old. Deer, bobcat, coyote, and smaller animals live together without molestation from man. Rare showy orchids cling to the shady Ozark slopes in contrast to the dry, open limestone glades along the ridges. The beautiful Meramec River, cutting along the base of over-hanging limestone cliffs, defines the southern boundary of the property.

Nearly forty St. Louis residents were introduced to such an environment last spring. All were adults representing practically every walk of life. But each had a common interest — a love of nature. A concise but thorough program presented natural processes of the environment from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The students saw, felt, and understood a small portion of the natural surroundings they could not possess within the urban complex. In summary, the students were introduced to the historical-geographical-ecological relationships existing in one's home territory. The workshops were confined to the week-ends so that more people could attend. The number of students was rigidly held to ten so that easier communication and understanding could result. Likewise, with this ratio both instructor and students felt more at ease, and learned both natural and human personalities.

Presently, the St. Louis Audubon Society is preparing for its second outdoor nature workshop in the spring of 1963. This time concentration will be upon the youth, and full week sessions might be possible. In the future, the possibility exists of using already built shelters as overnight dormitories for both adults and youth.

Not every local Audubon Society may be as fortunate as the St. Louis chapter. But the time has come for all local groups to realize their responsibilities. Perspective cannot altogether be taught; it must be discovered by the individual. The time may soon be approaching when a whole culture will be reared away from contact with the natural environment. Long ago it was written in the book of Genesis: "You shall have dominion over all the world." Today, human hope cries out for humility and guidance in this world domination.

THE PRESIDENT REPORTS

The Missouri Botanical Garden will again have the Nature Programs sponsored by the Pitzman Foundation and as usual members of the Audubon Society will teach the ornithology classes. We hope this year will be even more successful than last year when there were over 300 enrollments. Dr. Hugh Cutler tells me they are shooting for 500 youngsters this year. This would be a record.

An added attraction will be featured by the St. Louis Audubon Society who will have Leonard Hall present his new film for a premiere showing in St. Louis on April 30th.

"Audubon's Wilderness — The River Years"

Leonard and Virginia have just returned from Florida where I understand, their film was a huge success. We know you will enjoy it too. On this special occasion the Audubon Society is extending an invitation to all members of

The Academy of Science and The St. Louis Zoo Association

It is our intention to again feature Nature Workshops which Eugene Wilhelm, Jr., conducted last year. Details of these will be announced at the next lecture and also at the one given by Leonard Hall.

In addition to Mr. Wilhelm there will be several other people who will help put on these Nature Workshops.

Nature walks will be conducted the third Saturday and the last Sunday of each month at the Arboretum, Gray Summit. There will be no nature walks at the Arboretum on April 28th.

Audubon Members at Nature Center



A large group of birders consisting of members of "Friends of the Garden" attended last Fall's outing of their group at the Arboretum and were led on an afternoon bird walk by Earl Hath, Louis Brenner and others.

SPRING BIRD WALKS OF THE AUDUBON SOCIETY

Bird walks begin in Forest Park on the last two Sundays in April and the first two Sundays in May.

Dates: April 21st, Sunday

April 28th, Sunday

May 5th, Sunday

May 12th, Sunday

Meeting Place: Jefferson Memorial

Time: 7:30 a.m.

Information: Call Chairman of Walks, Martin Schweig, Jr., FO 1-4226

SPECIAL: The Spring Census Round-up will be held this year on Sunday, May 5th. Compiler — Earl Hath, YO 5-8642.

Due to conflict of dates, the Arboretum Field Trip on Sunday, April 28th, is cancelled.

For beginners: Bird Walks in Shaws Garden

Dates: April 27th, Saturday

May 4th, Saturday

Meeting Place: Main Gate, Tower Grove Entrance

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Leaders will be on hand. For Information: Call YO 5-8642.

RADIO AND T-V DATES FOR AUDUBON SOCIETY

Bristol Foster, our Loyalty Night speaker, will be interviewed by Bob Hardy of KMOX radio for broadcast on the 8:20 a.m. show of April 13. Mr. Foster has been invited to be on the Jack Buck radio show (10:15-midnight) on April 2 following the Screen Tour.

Aside from regular newcasts over radio stations preceding the Screen Tour, Brad Holiday of KFUE radio station will broadcast a feature story on Mr. Foster on his Information Desk program the afternoon of April 2. Walter Ross of KETC Channel 9 and Don Cunningham of KPLR, channel 11, will also broadcast news of the April 2 Screen Tour. All TV stations will receive copy on Mr. Foster and his exciting adventure-nature film lecture, but it cannot be stated definitely when the information will be included in newcasts.

Radio and television interviews with Leonard Hall will begin a week before the April 30th premiere of "Audubon's Wilderness—the River Years," first film lecture in a series of four on Audubon's life, art work and travels now in preparation by "Len" and "Ginnie."

On April 26 Leonard Hall will be interviewed on the Audubon film and its making by Walter Ross of KETC channel 9 at 2:45 p.m. He will appear on the famous Charlotte Peters' noontime show, KSD-TV, date and time not yet set; likewise he will be interviewed by Parker Wheatley's "Eye on St. Louis" popular 10:15 p.m. show, KMOX-TV; and with Bruce Hayward, well known newsman of KTVI channel 2, on April 24 or April 25. There will be a capsule newscast by Don Cunningham over KPLR, channel 11. "Len" will also be interviewed on a Max Roby KMOX-TV newscast and on a new interview spot coming up on the "Weather Girl's" (Miss Shepherd) regular KMOX-TV morning show.

Taussig, Day & Co. Inc.

Organized 1924

Member Midwest Stock Exchange

509 Olive Street - GA. 1-1721

ST. LOUIS 1, MO.

Suet Cakes . . . Sunflower Seed
Peanut Butter Balls
Wild Bird Seed . . . Birdhouses
Large selection of wild bird feeders

St. Louis Seed Company

411 NORTH BROADWAY

"Quality since 1903"

Compliments of

HOWARD JOHNSON'S

1130 South Kirkwood Road

7950 Clayton Road

LETTERHEADS

PROGRAMS

BOOKLETS

WEDDING INVITATIONS

. . .

HOPE PRESS, INC.

9912 Clayton Road

WYdown 3-2222

ST. LOUIS AUDUBON BULLETIN

PUBLISHED BY

ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

5079 Waterman Ave.

St. Louis 8, Mo.

FOrest 7-1404

Earl H. Hath.....President
Miss Alberta Bolinger.....Executive Secretary

St. Louis Audubon Society

5079 Waterman Ave.

St. Louis 8, Mo.

NON-PROFIT ORG.

U. S. POSTAGE

Paid

St. Louis, Mo.

Permit No. 5128

Miss Frances L. Dewey
634 Bacon Ave.
St. Louis 19, Mo.